

CC: 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 17, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hunt,

I saw that Southwestern Bell is asking the FCC to allow them to provide Long Distance service. I believe this is an excellent idea.

Although I'm happy with my current Long Distance company, I believe competition will cause the entire industry to serve their customers better and cheaper.

If Southwestern Bell wants my business -- and can provide it cheaper, with less complications than another company -- they should have the right to do so. I know Congress expressed that same sentiment when they passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

It's up to you to make it happen. Please allow Southwestern Bell into the Long Distance business.

Sincerely,

  
Lari L. Lowe  
4704 E. Frank Phillips Blvd.  
Bartlesville, OK 74006

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List ABCDE

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**Gloria C. Doud**  
**Office Manager**  
Radnor Corporate Center  
100 Matsonford Road  
Building 2, Floor 3  
Radnor, Pennsylvania 19087  
610 • 975 • 3310 610 • 971 • 9954 FAX

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**The New England®**  
Insurance and Investment

April 17, 1997

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APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

**The Honorable Reed E. Hundt**  
**Chairman**  
**Federal Communications Commission**  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am writing in response to a recent New York Time's article on the FCC's impending decision on local phone rates and the implementation of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

The plan discussed in the article proposes to cut access charges, which is a good idea. But, to allow the local phone companies to make up the lost revenue in new and increased fees on residential and small businesses is unacceptable. First, my understanding from the article is that access charges are way above cost. To the extent they are above cost, they should be cut, plain and simple.

Secondly, as a small business person, I resent any attempt by regulators to protect local phone monopolies profits, or to recoup any lost revenues on the backs of small business. I should not have to pay more for a second or third phone line just to allow the local phone companies to maintain what is pure gravy for their bottom lines.

The cost of communications is a significant part of my business expenses and the new law was supposed to cut those costs, not increase them. Inflated access charges should be reduced by the FCC, but not at the expense of real local competition and certainly not simply to protect monopoly profits with increased or additional fees on my business.

I am anxious for the chance to choose my local phone carrier, not to see my local or long distance phone bill increase just to cover the revenue stream of an antiquated system.

I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Gloria C. Doud

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Insurance and Investment

April 21, 1997

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt,  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Hundt:

I am writing in response to a recent New York Time's article on the FCC's impending decision on local phone rates and the implementation of the 1966 Telecommunications Act.

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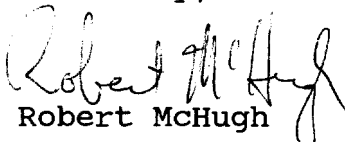
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Sincerely,

  
Robert McHugh

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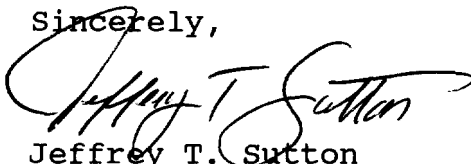
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Sincerely,



Jeffrey T. Sutton

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Chairman  
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1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Kedra, CPA, MBA

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary



The New England®  
Insurance and Investment

April 21, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt,  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

D. Christopher Benfer

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CC 96-45

Lake County Courthouse  
106 Fourth Avenue East  
Polson, Montana 59860-2187  
Phone (406) 883-7262  
Fax (406) 883-7283

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Lake County

*Joyce Decker Wegner*, Superintendent of Schools*"The Future Lies In the Minds of Tomorrow"*

April 23, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the Lake County Superintendent of Schools over eight district schools in Montana serving as liaison office between the districts and the State Office of Public Instruction. Three of the districts have small isolated two-room schools without administrators so I directly supervise those schools. I wish to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. Being on the electronic highway is vital for us in Montana with the vast geographic distances our districts cover and the barriers between them. Lake County has four different telephone companies operating with long distance charges between all of them. One of my isolated districts has two two-room schools twenty miles apart with long distance charges between each of them and between my office. This district, like two others, tries to provide quality education with a total operating budget of less than \$100,000. It is essential for all of us to provide the best education possible in the most efficient manner. Connectivity to each other and our local libraries via Internet e-mail and home pages will greatly assist this collaborative effort so that better education in the classroom can be improved.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts with an ability for connectivity between our cooperating districts and the small public libraries that serve them is essential if we hope to prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow. More essential is that we prepare them to be people able to communicate with each other and the continuously shrinking world around us. We want our Montana students to be from THE LAST BEST PLACE in connection with the world. If we can get connectivity, including opportunities for distance learning and distance staff development, we will be active learners on the electronic superhighway.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools. Thank you for your work towards these goals.

Sincerely,



Joyce Decker Wegner  
County Superintendent of Schools

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 23, 1997

TRANSMITTED BY FAX

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As a superintendent of schools from a school district in a state which is always struggling to advance technologically, I am most appreciative of your attention to the matter pending before the Commission regarding school districts and education generally. The need to maintain affordable access to the internet technology is a critical educational issue.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision to grant reduced prices for school districts will enable many of us to maintain the network connections and to provide enhanced distance-learning opportunities which would not be otherwise available.

Providing services directly to individual classrooms for use by our students through the proposed discounts of more than \$2 billion annually will be a tremendous assistance. It is also important that internal classroom connections be covered by a discounted rate structure. Most school districts simply do not have the resources to pay prevailing rates for networking costs.

I would also encourage you to minimize the paperwork required of local school districts for participation in this program. The FCC should continue its position of leadership by making it practical, economical, and simple for the education community to access the Information Superhighway.

Thank you for your leadership. Our students need the enhanced opportunities this can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benny L. Gooden", is written over a horizontal line.

Benny L. Gooden, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

BLG/rf

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"Home of the Penguins"

4/23/97

## WHITEWATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL DISTRICT 20 A-A and D

P.O. Box 46

Whitewater, Montana 59544

Phone 674-5417 and 674-5418

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RECEIVED

APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman:

I am the Superintendent of Schools in Whitewater, Montana and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Since my school district is very rural and isolated (we are the only school district in the state with a gravel road to its front door and we receive mail only three times per week) we feel that this program is the only way we can keep up with the world. My students deserve the same access to the Information Superhighway as does everyone else. This plan will give us that opportunity.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Cascaden, Supt.  
Whitewater Public Schools

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Education Association of Charles County

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

3555 Leonardtown Road  
Waldorf, Maryland 20601

(301) 645-3232

(301) 843-7757

Fax: (301) 645-6352

April 22, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket NO. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As president of the Education Association of Charles County Maryland which represents over 1,000 educators, I am writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guaranteed that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discount is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

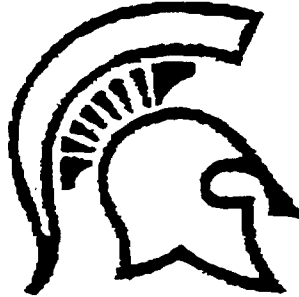
Sincerely,

*Bob Sondheimer*

Bob Sondheimer  
President

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BUSHNELL-PRAIRIE CITY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #170  
845 N. WALNUT BUSHNELL, IL 61422



B-PC SPARTANS

FAX COVER SHEET

Lynn Hartweger, Superintendent

Phone: 309-772-9461

FAX: 309-772-9462

SEND TO: Company Name:	FROM: <i>Lynn Hartweger</i>
Attention: <i>Reed Hundt, Chairman</i>	Date: <i>4-23-97</i>
Fax Number: <i>202-418-2801</i>	Phone Number: <i>309-772-9461</i>

☐ Urgent    ☐ Reply ASAP    ☐ Please comment    ☐ Please review    ☐ For your information

Total Pages, including cover 2

COMMENTS:

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**Bushnell-Prairie City Community Unit School District #170**

845 North Walnut Street • Bushnell, Illinois 61422

## • ADMINISTRATION •

Lynn Hartweger, Supt.  
Unit Office 309/772-9461  
Fax 309/772-9462

Jerry Merrick, Prin.  
High School 309/772-2113

Ray Krey, Prin.  
Junior High 309/772-3123

Steve Russell, Prin.  
Elementary 309/772-9464  
Fax 309/772-9466

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 23, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a Superintendent from Bushnell-Prairie City C.U.S.D. #170 in Bushnell, Illinois. I appreciate your dedication in ensuring that all school districts will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

District #170 is making every effort to integrate global communications opportunities into the instructional program. The scope of this program will be severely limited or perhaps even short-lived without this discount plan.

Deep discounts for telecommunications services to schools are needed this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lynn Hartweger, Superintendent  
Bushnell-Prairie City C.U.S.D. #170

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APR 28 1997

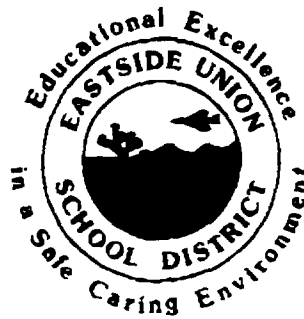
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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## • BOARD OF EDUCATION •

Linda L. Hensley, Pres. • Howard L. Daniels, V.P. • Crystal A. Bedwell, Sec. • Ken A. Curtis • Layne McKee • Karen Keener • Jeff Bryan

Constance E. Webb  
Superintendent



Board of Education

Mr. Larry Lake, *President*  
Mr. Willard Ritchie, *Vice President*  
Mrs. Martha D. Johnson, *Clerk*  
Mrs. Janette T. Crawford, *Member*  
Mrs. Ida Ward, *Member*

April 18, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
FAX #202-418-2801  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to you in regard to the Federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Rate Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the Eastside Union School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and most importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classroom where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the implementation of discounts on internal classroom connections should not be eliminated nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations requiring the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees  
Eastside Union School District

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED CC 96-48



RECEIVED  
APR 28 1997  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

To: Chairman Reed E. Hundt

4/23/97

From: John R Morris - Director of Telecommunications

While I applaud the Commissions proposal to raise money to bring the net to public schools (k thru 12) and libraries; I must beg you to make higher education exempt from this increase. . As a state agency with a fixed budget the only way I'm going to be able to absorb this substantial increase is to forgo our plans to wire the residence halls for the net. It's really a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul and in this case a lot of the Peters are future teachers that will be teaching the Pauls how to use the net.

Thank you for your consideration.

CC Brian Moir  
Jeri Semer



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APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

April 23, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

re: CC Docket No. 96-45  
Ex Parte Communications

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the United Seniors Health Cooperative I want to add our voice to the growing number of groups asking the Commission to meet the needs of all Americans for affordable access to advanced telecommunications services in your upcoming ruling on universal telephone service.

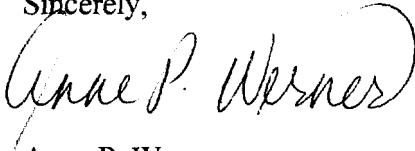
For one hundred years our nation's priority has been the universal and affordable deployment of communications technology so that all Americans, regardless of income, race, disability, age, or geographic location are able to benefit from modern advances in communications. We ask the Commission to continue this goal through adopting policies that promote competition for local telephone service in ways that do not jeopardize the continued maintenance and deployment of an advanced telecommunications network available to all.

We applaud the concerns expressed by the Commission concerning universal service funding that provide for contributions from all telecommunications firms who stand to profit from future communications services. We would hope that the Commission reaffirm its support for "Lifeline" and "Link-up" programs. Older Americans on limited incomes are primary beneficiaries of these programs. We also believe that seniors not only need affordable basic phone service but also access to emerging technologies such as telemedicine, video conferencing and other advanced services that will help them maintain independence and dignity in their own homes and communities.

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In summary, we support efforts to open up all services in telecommunications to competition and protect the interests of older Americans through a continued national commitment to maintain affordable prices for phone service and access to advanced communications applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anne P. Werner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Anne P. Werner  
Acting Director

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**HOKES BLUFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**5375 Main Street  
HOKES BLUFF, ALABAMA 35903

C C 96-45

April 21, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**RECEIVED****APR 28 1997**The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20054Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools so that every child and lifelong learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so they can secure services at affordable prices.

Advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all the nation's residents. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children can connect with the technology they will need to compete in tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent you a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. If adopted, the recommendations would give schools and libraries significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those least able to pay and more expensive to serve. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

Our school is currently involved in the Net Day project. We hope to be ready to go on-line by September of this year. If our project goes according to plans, we would really benefit from discounted telecommunications services for our school's internet connection.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services and provide flexibility in choosing the services needed. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Barry Bottoms  
PrincipalNo. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

0

Montgomery County Elementary School  
900 Martin Luther King Drive  
Ailey, GA 30410  
912/583-2279  
912/583-4560 (Fax)

CC 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

April 25, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am the principal of Montgomery County Elementary School. Your dedication and hard work in ensuring that school districts such as ours have affordable access to the world wide web is commendable.

In a rural area such as ours it is often difficult for students to have the same access to information as those in more metropolis areas do. We are working very hard to ensure that our students receive the best education they possibly can.

That is why we have been so excited about the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision which will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is extremely important. If areas like ours are ever going to be able to prepare our students to meet the demands of a global economy we must allow them access to one of the best means of learning available as soon as possible.

Thanks again for all of your hard work, and your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Hannah Kent  
Principal

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1



# Saint Joseph's Catholic School

905 High Street • Macon, GA 31201-2034 • 912-742-0636 • GRADES K-8

"Catholic Education Making a Difference"

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 25, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am principal of St. Joseph's Catholic School in the Diocese of Savannah and would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and educational institutions will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly into the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to this process. This plan is also essential in preparing our students for Workforce 2000.

At present we have access to the Information Superhighway in our library and computer lab. One site is free the other costs us monthly. We would very much like to have access in all of our classrooms.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services to schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sr. Joan Serda, Principal

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CC 96-45



## GARDEN GROVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

12966 Euclid Street, Suite 220, Garden Grove, CA 92840  
(714) 638-7480 FAX (714) 638-9167

Affiliated with the California Teachers Association and National Education Association

April 21, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. St. N.W., Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20054

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On behalf of the teachers in the Garden Grove Unified School District in California and in order to provide computer access to all students in Garden Grove (and California), I am writing to tell you that we support meaningful discounts on the telecommunications services for schools and libraries. By discounting the services, the GGUSD will be able to afford more services at a quicker rate.

In Garden Grove, we have many students who cannot afford their own computers. Therefore, the school setting is the only opportunity for ALL students to receive the technology they will need to compete in the 21st century.

It is our understanding that the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. Under these recommendations, the schools would have significant discounts on all commercially available services, with larger discounts for schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. Most importantly, ALL SCHOOLS WOULD GET DISCOUNTS ON CONNECTIONS TO CLASSROOMS AND INTERNET CONNECTIVITY which would help our District to afford more advanced technology for our students sooner.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. The discounts would benefit our students who will be the future generations of this country. By supporting and adopting these provisions, all American students will have the opportunity equally to learn the technology needed to make themselves successful and our country stronger.

Sincerely,

*Ann Adler*

Ann Adler  
President, Garden Grove Education Association  
4-5-6 Teacher in the Garden Grove Unified School District

AA:jd

cc: Docket No. 96-45

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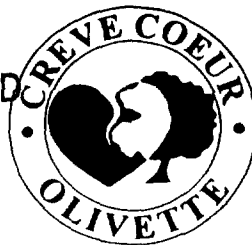
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Director Emeritus  
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Vi Smith

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**Chamber of Commerce**

April 18, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Creve Coeur-Olivette Chamber of Commerce supports affordable and accessible modern telecommunications services and infrastructure for all consumers in the United States.

It was for these reasons we supported the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which was intended to encourage and facilitate local exchange competition and infrastructure investment.

We believe a final ruling by the Federal Communications Commission on access charges and universal service must reflect the intent of this legislation.

If we are to remain a player in the global economy, we must develop a fully competitive marketplace, one that will insure lower prices with accessibility to more services and we look to you to adopt policies which encompass support for universal service and an expedient move towards a competitive market.

Sincerely,

Vi Smith  
Executive Vice President

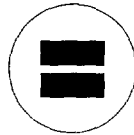
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APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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## Trident Urban League, Inc.

32 Ann Street, P.O. Box 20249, Charleston, SC 29413-0249 • (803) 720-2780 • Fax (803) 720-2782

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 22, 1997

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

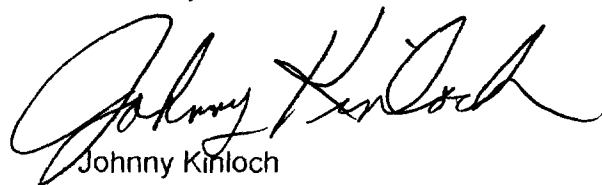
When the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was passed, South Carolinians were assured that they would receive more and better services at lower rates. Recent proposals by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), however, have members of The Trident Urban League wondering if they will receive the "benefits of deregulation" or an unfair burden.

The Trident Urban League is a local affiliate of the National Urban League which is the only national organization providing full-time, professional attention to redressing the economic and social problems of African-Americans and other minorities.

A large number of our clients live on lower or fixed incomes and any lessening of existing services or raise in rates would result in sacrifices that no resident of South Carolina should have to make.

The Act was supposed to benefit everyone, yet the FCC rules may end up piling on additional weights to the overloaded backs of lower or fixed-income families. Chairman Hundt, we ask only that you guide the FCC along a fair and equitable path of implementation.

Sincerely,



Johnny Kinloch

/lm

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# Springfield Public Schools

SUPERINTENDENT

CC 96-45

April 22, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED  
APR 28 1997  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

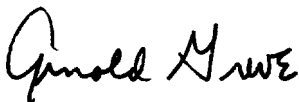
I am Superintendent of the Springfield Public Schools, a large urban school district in southwest Missouri. I am writing concerning CC Docket No. 96-45 and to encourage your continued support for this proposal that will ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that all schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing students for the workforce of tomorrow.

A discount in telecommunication costs would greatly benefit our school system in many ways. Decreasing costs associated with connecting over 50 sites to our administrative center and to the Internet, would allow for even greater learning opportunities for students by allowing the District to expand bandwidths and add more telecommunication services and equipment.

I believe it is imperative for our District to have deep discounts for telecommunications this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,



Arnold Greve, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

AG:cr

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"Uplifting Education"

Robert Shannon  
Superintendent

Randall Watson  
Asst. Superintendent  
for Instruction

Perry McCabe  
Asst. Superintendent  
for Business

John Black  
Director of  
Special Education

# McPherson Unified School District 418

514 North Main  
McPherson, Kansas 67460  
(316) 241-9400

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 22, 1997

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APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

On behalf of the Board of Education of McPherson USD 418, I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and more importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

McPherson USD 418 has a plan for connecting all classrooms, labs, and offices to the Internet through our local cable television (Multimedia Cablevision) in conjunction with Southwestern Bell and an internet service provider. However, such services are very expensive and the ability to maintain them in the face of other needs is often difficult. Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. On behalf of the Board of Education of McPherson USD 418, I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Perry McCabe, Assistant Superintendent  
for Business  
McPherson USD 418  
514 North Main  
McPherson, Kansas 67460



# JUDSON SCHOOL

CC 96-45

"Caring to Learn, Learning to Care"

HENRY C. WICK, III  
PRESIDENT

DENNIS P. GRAY  
HEADMASTER

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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April 18, 1997

APR 28 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20054

Dear Chairman Hundt:

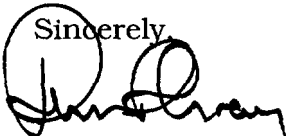
I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act -- through its Universal Service Fund provisions -- mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's work force. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,



Dennis P. Gray  
Head of School

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